

Wood, Lisa A (DFW)

From: William O. Douglas Trail <williamodouglastrail@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 11, 2017 10:17 AM
To: SEPADesk2 (DFW)
Subject: SEPA Comment -- Oak Creek Wildlife Area Management Plan

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Please accept the following comments on the SEPA DNS for the Oak Creek Wildlife Area Management Plan:

The SEPA DNS for the Oak Creek Wildlife Area Management Plan, and the Management Plan itself, both failed to include any information about significant historic, recreational, and cultural resources existing in Range 16 East, Township 14 North, Sections 25, 26, 27, 35, and 36.

The William O. Douglas Heritage Trail follows the route of the historic Cowiche Valley Wagon Road and the ancient Native American primary travel corridor across the Cowiche Wildlife Area in Range 16, Township 14, located NORTH of Cowiche Mill Road. These historic and cultural resources are documented by state and federal agencies, and the trail sections physically exist on the ground and can also be seen on Google Earth imagery. See also information on the historic Cowiche Valley Wagon Road at <http://www.williamodouglastrail.org/wagonroad.htm>, which is derived from General Land Office surveys done in the 1880s.

Also, there is a trailhead off Sunset Road at the Southeast corner of Section 25 that has been in public use for years to access the William O. Douglas Heritage Trail. This existing trail segment heads west from Sunset Road and exits the Cowiche Unit approximately 3.5 miles later at the West boundary line of Section 27. WDFW has previously written letters of support for the William O. Douglas Trail and acknowledged the Heritage Trail in previous planning documents and funding requests.

The SEPA DNS should be withdrawn and a SEPA Mitigated DNS should be issued instead with specific mitigation measures to disclose and protect the documented historic, recreational, and cultural resources located north of Cowiche Mill Road. The Oak Creek Management Plan should be revised accordingly.

Thank you,

William O. Douglas Trail Foundation
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